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# Extension Service *Review*

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## 4-H youth roll up impressive achievements

■ November 4 to 11 is National 4-H

Achievement Week, and even preliminary estimates show that the work pile has reached impressive proportions. For example, 12 million 4-H chickens contributed to the food arsenal. One hundred thousand dairy animals and 600,000 head of other livestock were cared for by their youthful owners to reach their "Feed a Fighter" goals. Three hundred thousand 4-H acres were planted to feed crops.

Working on another wartime goal of safeguarding health on the home front, 800,000 young people had health examinations, and an equal number

studied first aid and nursing. Accidents, a common cause of expensive waste, were cut down by removing farm and home accident hazards on 400,000 farms. Who can measure the value to the Nation's hard-working farm families of the 13 million well-balanced and nutritional meals served by 4-H girls?

National 4-H achievement was represented on the National Farm and Home Hour, November 4, by California, South Dakota, and Connecticut club-member speakers. They told listeners of their experiences in helping with the wartime efforts of home and farm, of responsibility discharged for goals in War Bond sales, and of accomplishments in production of food to "feed a fighter."

November achievement month also makes available for the first time the 4-H national leadership certificate for

service. The attractive green-and-white certificates with the gold seal are furnished by the Department of Agriculture and awarded to veteran leaders selected by the States.

Another new feature of this month of achievement is the distribution of certificates of appreciation by the Quartermaster General to young people, 4-H Club members, and Future Farmers who raise a meat animal for the U. S. Army.

Fairs, county and State, have added zest to the 4-H effort "to make the best better." Many have been unusually successful, as the Idaho 4-H Fair at Lava Hot Springs, which boasted an attendance of 1,500 visitors—a record attendance. As the Pocatello Tribune reported it, "Youth was king throughout the real honest-to-goodness farmers' fair. . . High light of the afternoon awards was the pinning of the jeweled 20-year 4-H Club service pin on Mrs. J. D. McGregor . . . Edward White, who had the misfortune to lose his three spotted Poland Chinas on Friday just in time to miss the judging, received word that his prize pigs had been located Saturday about a mile from the pens. He was glad to have the animals back, although he had missed out on the winnings."

Fairs are over, and the lucky winners are getting ready to defend their titles at the National 4-H Club Congress. Many can say with Benjamin Fine, recent recipient of the Pulitzer Award, in a recent article in the Country Gentleman: "Actually, I received more inspiration from my 4-H Club than I did from school. I learned how to take care of my young heifer and soon became a big business executive selling milk at a profit to my father. The 200 White Leghorns that I kept as a 4-H project gave me the money that later sent me to college. The county agent, who visited us regularly, was glad to give me advice."

### PICTURE OF THE MONTH

One of the 220 4-H Club members of Coventry, Conn., who took seriously the club wartime slogan of "Feed a fighter or more in '44," gets a bird ready for Thanksgiving. Coventry has sent 240 to the armed services, and club members went well over their goal of growing enough food to feed the men from their town for a full year.



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# Recruiting labor against odds

DOROTHY S. TOWLE, Assistant Editor, New Hampshire Extension Service

■ Unless you really liked farm work and were prepared to do your part as an emergency farm laborer, it really wasn't safe to walk down the streets of Conway, N. H., or even to be seen on the roads or sidewalks of the surrounding towns this summer and fall.

Not long ago, a visitor from the University of New Hampshire said to Mellen Benson, the emergency farm labor assistant in Carroll County: "You apparently have quite a labor problem in this section of the State—you don't have any large cities to draw from, and the majority of your population seems to be rural. How do you get enough workers to harvest the crops?"

"I pick them up here and there," he replied.

And this is literally true. Mellen Benson, moving more rapidly with a cane than others do without one, has the kind of inexhaustible energy which will not allow him to stop until his job is done. He doesn't know the meaning of the word "defeat," and he allows nothing to stop him when he has made up his mind. Several weeks ago, a field day was held in Conway to make awards to all the people who had assisted in the farm labor program. On the morning of the day, Benson, driving down the street, saw a young girl in a WAC uniform. He stopped his car, got out, took the girl by the arm, and said: "Come with me—I need you." She insisted that she was on leave, that she had to get back to her headquarters; but within half an hour Benson had made all the arrangements with her superiors; the WAC was in the parade that afternoon.

How Mellen Benson recruits farm labor in a rural county should give courage to others who have been faced with the same problem. He gets people of all ages from all kinds of jobs and by his own enthusiasm interests them in helping. One of his most interesting workers was Peter McPherson, 97, the first man to be on the job when the railroad was put through Crawford Notch in the White Mountains. McPherson lives with his daughter, takes care of her garden, and does weeding for others.

Then there was the Baptist minister from Jackson who one day saw a young man doing the haying alone. He had heard of the recruiting Benson had been doing, so went to the county agent's office and asked whether he might be of service.

When Benson heard that any of the small factories in the county were closing down for repairs or for any other reason, he would be there to ask the workers to spend their free time doing farm work. He recruited many of the crews of the portable sawmills to do haying after 4 o'clock.

Then, too, he had large groups of school children who did yeoman serv-

vision of their counselors and were easy to train.

In addition to all these people, there were about 50 women who qualified for the Women's Land Army. Some of them had done a little farm work before, but the majority had not. They helped harvest beans, corn, potatoes, and apples.

At the end of August, just before the camps closed for the season, a big field day was held in Conway, primarily for the camp boys and girls. A parade of tractors, hayracks, and other farm machinery, covered with bean vines and cornstalks, picking bags and full baskets of beans, wound its way down the tree-shaded streets of the village. Each float was full of laughing boys, girls, and women in farm costumes, with bright ribbons or kerchiefs on their heads. Farm-



A field day and parade in Conway, N. H., brought to a happy close the harvest season. Everyone from town and country was there to see the workers receive their WLA and VFV insignia.

ice picking beans, corn, and potatoes. They came from both grammar and high schools all over the county.

If any further proof of Benson's persuasiveness is needed, it can be found in the fact that his largest group of workers came from the private summer camps, so numerous in New England. Some 14 camps furnished more than 400 boys and girls who picked 53 acres of beans. Not all of the youngsters and teen-age boys and girls in these camps helped with the harvest, but a large percentage of them did; and the farmers found them very satisfactory workers. The camp workers were under the super-

ers from the county and townsmen gathered before the high school where Kenneth Barraclough, State farm labor supervisor; Norman Whippen, assistant supervisor; Kathryn Mills, assistant State supervisor, Women's Land Army; all from the University of New Hampshire, and Mellen Benson presented WLA insignia and VFV awards to the boys and girls.

Mellen Benson has every reason to be proud of the work he has done in Carroll County, N. H., during this harvest season; and the State leaders are proud, too, to know that in this county where recruiting was as difficult as any place in the country, no crops have gone to waste.

# Foresight is better . .

E. L. QUAIFE, Extension Specialist in Animal Husbandry, Iowa

■ In the spring of 1944, Hardin County farmers indicated that they intended to plant 142,000 acres of corn and 42,000 acres of soybeans. The spring was wet and backward and, although most of the corn was planted by June 1, there was a considerable acreage that was not planted until the second week in June.

Owing to these facts, the county program planning committee of the Extension Service realized that a considerable part of the crop obviously could not mature into sound beans and corn unless favored by an exceptionally late freeze in the fall.

As early as May the committee recommended that, as a part of the educational program, attention be centered upon salvaging and efficient utilization of that portion of the crop which might not mature.

On July 31, a committee of 10 attended a district extension conference devoted to consideration of feed utilization and conservation. This committee was made up of 5 farm operators, the vocational agriculture instructor, extension program committee chairman, chairman of the livestock marketing committee, chairman of the county AAA committee, Farm Security Administration supervisor, and the county extension agent.

Following the conference, the committee debated how to determine the seriousness of the situation—whether to send a questionnaire to all farmers, to send a questionnaire to neighborhood leaders, or to personally call on a cross section of the neighborhood leaders. It was decided after consideration to personally call on five or more of the leaders in each township.

The county agent, the emergency war food assistant, and the farm labor assistant prepared the questionnaire to ascertain four facts: (1) What percentage of the corn and beans would be damaged by an early frost (September 15 to 20) and a normal frost (October 6 or later); (2); whether the farmers surveyed felt that their neighborhood was prepared to harvest any appreciable amount of immature corn; (3) whether the farmers were prepared to utilize their immature corn and beans; and (4) what percentage of the farmers had ensil-

age cutters and corn binders and the location of these machines.

The county extension personnel personally consulted an average of 5 farmers in each township—a total of 80 in the county. The farmers consulted consisted of the township AAA chairman and 4 or more neighborhood leaders. On the basis of the spot check, an average estimate for the county was made.

It appeared that, on the basis of an early killing frost, 38 percent of the corn and 28 percent of the beans would be immature. On the basis of a normal frost, 22 percent of the corn and 9 percent of the beans would probably fail to mature. The survey further showed that 36 percent of the farmers were not equipped to harvest immature corn, mainly because of the lack of corn binders. Approximately 21 percent of the farmers were not prepared to utilize all of their immature corn and beans. The survey showed only 23 ensilage cutters and 101 corn binders in the entire county. Only 6 corn binders had been allotted to Hardin County, and only 2 farmers had filed applications for corn binders.

## Newspapers Cooperate

Farmers were acquainted with findings of the survey through the press. The committee proposed that the findings of the survey also be given publicity at regular township meetings, special meetings called for the particular purpose of discussing the situation, and at any other type of meeting where it would be appropriate to discuss the questions. A copy of the extension pamphlet, *What's Ahead for the Livestock Farmer*, was mailed to every farmer in the county.

Farmers were advised of the number of binders and cutters, and that those expecting to need this equipment could obtain the names and addresses of the owners through the county extension office.

At one township meeting a township chairman, in cooperation with a panel of four farmers, discussed the findings of the survey and the problems involved in harvesting the immature corn and beans in that particular township. Sixty people were

present at the meeting. One farmer stated that he knew definitely that he would have soft corn and that he had already made arrangements with a neighbor to cut his corn. Consideration was given to the matter of leasing silos which were not going to be filled by the owner to some nearby neighbor who might have soft corn and who lived close enough to make it practical for him to fill the silo.

It was too early to evaluate the outcome of the campaign in Hardin County when this was written, but the people are well aware of the situation as a result of the publicity and information programs. They seem inclined to wait for action until the situation is more definite relative to the corn crop.

As far as bringing in cattle, most of them feel that feeder cattle prices are as yet too high. With an abundance of roughage on most farms farmers believe that the immature corn can be taken care of quite satisfactorily by hogging down and feeding to their own cattle herds.

## Governor joins 4-H Club

On March 2, Governor William H. Wills of Vermont became an honorary Vermont 4-H Club member. In the presence of E. L. Ingalls, State 4-H Club leader, the Governor was enrolled by Evelyn Robinson, 14, of Calais, in the executive chambers of the Statehouse during 4-H Mobilization Week. The Governor signed up as a member of the Adamant Hustlers' 4-H Club of Calais, of which Evelyn has been a member for the past 5 years. After looking over the list of 41 Vermont wartime 4-H Club projects in food production, food preservation, and other farm, home, and community activities, he enrolled for the Victory Garden project.

■ Volume I, No. 1 of the official organ of the British Guiana 4-H Clubs has just made its appearance. It carries the familiar 4-H pledge and motto. "To make the best better," on the cover and is a newsy and interesting publication. A recent number of the Canadian Boys and Girls Club News brings an interesting account of their activities for young folks.



# Young folks consider post-war opportunities



The outlook isn't too gloomy to members of the Rural Young People's State Board of Iowa meeting at Lake Ahquabi to consider post-war opportunities.

■ *"Amusement and recreation are the very things that make our working hours profitable. He who carves so steadily that he has no time to sharpen his knife works with dull tools and cannot make much headway."*

Their numbers greatly depleted by members away serving in the armed forces, Iowa's rural youth have been "carving" more steadily than ever on the agricultural front this year. They took time out to "sharpen their knives," however, at a series of four 2-day rural youth camps held in the State during July, August, and September.

Their whetstones: A large recreational program, a ceremonial campfire, a challenging Sunday matins service, and a panel discussion. Their discussion topic: "What can we do now as individuals and through our organization to help create post-war opportunities for rural young people?" Yes, Iowa's rural young people have their fingers in the post-war planning pie.

Seventy-six rural youths from 5 counties attended the Morris Isle camp in northeastern Iowa, held July 29 and 30. Registration reached 150 at the Lake Ahquabi camp, held August 12 and 13 in south central

Iowa at which seven counties were represented. Seventy-one rural youths from 5 counties attended a third camp, September 2 and 3 at Walther League on Lake Okoboji in northwestern Iowa. Fifty persons registered for Camp Abe Lincoln, September 9 and 10, in southeastern Iowa.

What post-war plans are Iowa's rural youth making? A glance at the ideas brought out in panel discussions indicates their thinking:

"Post-war boom or depression? Well, at least some kind of financial strain . . . With our boys fighting for democracy, we should live up to democracy . . . Save money now in order to grasp opportunities later . . . Watch home-front attitude toward returning servicemen. After being bossed by 'brass hats' they may want to be 'boss' for awhile. We may have to take a back seat and learn to adjust ourselves to their ways instead of trying to win them over to ours.

"Don't just drift into a job, but find a job for which you are suited . . . Make county canvass of available farm jobs to serve as stop-overs for returning servicemen who do not want to farm but who must wait until extra war workers exit from industrial plants.

"Farmer-banker advisory board

could give help to servicemen seeking new ideas in farming . . . Some sort of government aid might be provided returning servicemen to get them established, in view of the fact they haven't had a chance to take advantage of wartime prices . . . G. I. Bill of Rights gives servicemen right to borrow at low interest rate in order to get a start.

"Law requires former employers to rehire returning servicemen but doesn't say they must keep them if they don't produce. Haven't scarred the surface of industry, agriculture, national or international fields . . . Expansion in business will come nearer to taking care of returning servicemen than anything else . . . More school teachers will be needed to educate foreign children to our ways of thinking . . . Many older men, farming at peak tempo, will want to retire, making room for returning servicemen.

Civilians released from war industries may grab best post-war jobs, leaving agricultural workers to take what's left . . . Will men coming back be loaded with high-priced machinery and cars? . . . Put money in war bonds and postpone building, fencing, and tiling improvements until materials are available . . . Can't rush servicemen into a readjustment back into civilian life but should make them feel welcome on returning home . . . People on home front need to be educated on how to deal with boys coming home. On entering service they had to adjust to army routine; now it will be just the reverse . . . While money is cheap, save and avoid going into debt . . . People must be educated to forget racial prejudices, or war won't stay away long . . . Must learn to use our leisure time . . . How will population trends affect the returning servicemen interested in farming?"

When the home front seeks to absorb servicemen back into peacetime industries—whether farming or some other occupation to which they are more suited—Iowa rural youth will be prepared not only to help returning servicemen, but to help them to help themselves. By writing personal and group letters, they are keeping posted on what members away in service are thinking, and they are discussing things of mutual interest to those at home and on the fighting fronts.



# The proof is in the cooking

ANNA M. WILSON, Extension Nutritionist, South Dakota Extension Service

■ As an outgrowth of the information gained at the National Nutrition Council meeting held in Chicago during the spring of 1944, the South Dakota Extension Service, under the supervision of Nora M. Hott, State home demonstration leader, conducted a vegetable preparation contest for extension club members during the past summer. This contest served as a means of adapting the recommendations of the National Council to the needs of South Dakota where the greatest food problem is a shortage of vitamin C in the diet. In addition there is a tendency to overeat cereals and sweets, due in part to the eating habits of the nationality groups that live here and in part to the extensive production of grain and livestock in this area.

Impromptu quiz programs featured in the 17 district federation meetings held in the State revealed that homemakers were hazy in their knowledge of vegetable cookery and of nutritional principles. This fact indicated a need for a new approach in the method used to teach nutrition to extension club members.

Tentative plans for a vegetable preparation contest were presented to the home agents at the annual spring conference in May by Mrs. Emily Parker, president of the Home Agents Association. Plans were accepted and incorporated into the summer's plan of work.

In the contest, each woman was to prepare one cooked and one raw vegetable dish which would be judged by the following score card:

## Percentage

Flavor and texture.....	25
Eye appeal.....	15
Retention of vitamins and minerals .....	20
Proportion of vegetable included .....	10
Practical preparation....	20
Knowledge of vegetable preparation .....	10

Club and county contests were held to provide representatives who participated in one of the five district competitions. At these events, two or more women worked simul-

taneously to prepare their dishes. Each woman was given 5 minutes to describe her dishes and tell how she used them in her home, why she liked them, and what specific points in preparation deserved special attention from the audience. As the women worked, the judges questioned them as to what they were doing and why. This method of calling attention to the important points to be learned kept the interest of the audience and freed the contestants of concern as to what they would say while preparing their dishes.

Homemakers from 27 counties took part in the district contests. The 6 winners of the district's meetings participated in the State contest held at the South Dakota State Fair.

After the experience of attending one meeting, many women followed the competition on through, attending both district and State contests. Club members have requested that the contest be repeated next year.

The vegetable preparation contest did attract attention to using vegetables more liberally in the diet.

Another valuable result was accomplished by judging the products prepared, as it was possible to score down those dishes in which the women used poor practices. Some of the most frequently occurring examples of this were cutting the salad vegetable into tiny pieces, adding too much dressing, pressing the salad firmly into a dish, and overcooking vegetables. Women accepted new ideas revealed in this way, whereas in regular demonstrations these points did not seem to make as vivid an impression.

Contestants made an effort to tell how the dishes were used in their homes to solve a specific problem. Thus each contest proved a valuable means of idea exchange. For example, several new ideas of seasoning string beans were shown, as string beans are plentiful, and many families tire of them. There were recipes, too, for the beginning and end of the garden season, in which several vegetables were combined as at this time the quantity of any one vegetable would be small. The hot

dish for the summer supper that could be prepared in the morning when there was fire in the wood range and reheated on a small hot plate proved a popular entry.

Taking part in the contest bolstered the women's self-esteem and satisfied a desire for recognition. Especially enjoyed was the pride which husband and family took in "Mother's accomplishment."

The recipes used in the contests are being compiled by Anna Wilson, State nutrition specialist, and will be published as a cookbook for which the demand has already been created.

From the statements made by the women, the nutrition specialist was able to find what information on the preparation and use of vegetables was most needed by the women.

The nutrition lesson to be given in every extension club in the State this fall will be based on this needed information. By building on what the women know, rather than repeating much of that which they have already learned, the demonstration will be better accepted. Also, the women will have developed an interest in keeping informed on present-day recommendations for vegetable cookery resulting from research study.

**Mrs. James Smith, Yankton County, S. Dak., homemaker knows her vegetables. She tied for State championship in the vegetable preparation contest at the Huron State Fair with this salad tray and swiss chard mold.**



# Do you know . .

## COUNTY AGENT KERR

of Tennessee who rounds out a quarter century of teaching  
good land use

■ In recognition of his 25 years of service to his county, July 1 was designated as L. J. Kerr Day in the Fifth War Loan Drive by the Rotary Club of Millington, his home town community. A total of \$114,275 worth of bonds was purchased in his honor by farmers, businessmen, 4-H Club and farm bureau members and Victory Committeemen of Shelby County. He has also been honored by Memphis civic clubs, the Agricultural Club of the Memphis Chamber of Commerce, and the Shelby County Farm Bureau.

Starting his service in Shelby County on July 1, 1919, as vocational agriculture teacher, he served in that capacity until 1924 when he was made assistant county agent. Ten years later, in 1934, he became county agent.

Born on a farm in Hardin County, Tenn., one of the smaller hill counties of the State, he graduated from the University of Tennessee in 1919. In 1917-18, he worked in Decatur and McNairy Counties as an emergency agent during World War I.

In his present position he is responsible for the agricultural extension program in the county. He is secretary of the program-planning committee, chairman of the county farm labor committee, secretary of the Agricultural Conservation Association program, a member of the agricultural committee of the chamber of commerce, past president of the Memphis Agricultural Club, president of the Tennessee County Agents Association, past director of the southern region of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents, and director of the Mid-South Fair.

He cooperates with the committee on rationing of farm machinery and the Shelby County Farm Bureau. He furnishes information to Selective Service headquarters and has averaged a radio program each week of the past 10 years.

In 1942 he received the Distinguished Service Award from the National Association of County Agricultural Agents for continuous service.

One of the outstanding accomplishments of extension work under his direction is the organization and general supervision of the Shelby County Soil Erosion Control Association which, during the past 9 years, has terraced 16,483 acres of land on 338 different farms at a cost of only \$2.15 per acre. Four lakes and 80 stock ponds have also been constructed and 23 ponds enlarged with the equipment.

The association started out with one power terracing outfit, supplied by a local firm, and a debt for same of \$4,600. The outfit was to be paid for out of funds obtained from charges made for terracing at \$3 per hour, after all expense of operation had been met. The outfit was paid for in 3 years. Farmers and officials of the county were so highly pleased with the work that the county court made an appropriation for the purchase of a second outfit for the association, and both outfits are kept busy.

A full-time assistant agent was employed to supervise the work, run lines, locate outlets, and aid farmers with terrace maintenance, also to contour tillage and carry out other soil-conservation practices such as crop rotations and pasture seedings.

Agent Kerr estimates that 100,000 acres of the 256,000 in cropland in the county need terracing, and the association expects to expand its operations as rapidly as war conditions will permit to accomplish the terracing in a minimum of time.

But all of his accomplishments are not in the field of erosion control. 4-H Club membership has increased from 500 to 2,000 in the past 10 years, and a full-time assistant agent is employed to supervise this work.

In 1939 the first trainload of lime, 25 cars, to be shipped into a west Tennessee county was delivered to Shelby farmers. In 1936 only 6 carloads were used, whereas nearly 1,000 carloads have been ordered to date this year.

Ninety percent of the cotton grown is now of one variety. Growers use from one to three carloads of foundation seed each year. Average cotton

yields have increased from 187 pounds lint to 339 pounds per acre; a bale per acre is no longer unusual.

The county received the 1943 "A" WFA award for food production.

The goal for Victory gardens this year was set at 20,000. There were 12,500 in 1943.

Small-grain crops and improved pastures have increased 100 percent in the past 10 years. Dairying, as well as beef cattle and hog production, has experienced rapid developments in both numbers and quality.

Agent Kerr works closely with the Shelby County Penal Farm which has won Nation-wide recognition for its extensive crop, livestock, and soil-conservation operations on a profitable and self-supporting basis.

With the same enthusiasm with which he started work 25 years ago, Agent Kerr starts his second quarter century with high hopes for still greater service to the county.

## Recruits 100 wheat harvesters

An organized grapevine got results in Greene County, Ark., according to John A. Russell, county agent. Recently Greene County was asked if it could supply 100 farm laborers to assist in harvesting the midwestern wheat crop. A letter written to 45 neighborhood leaders explained the need for labor immediately in the small-grain area and asked them to get this information to others in their community who could help in the harvest. This was the only type of publicity given. These letters were received by the neighborhood leaders on Monday, and by the following Wednesday 122 men had indicated to county extension office in Paragould that they would like to sign up for the harvest.

Agent Russell said that by handling the recruiting in this way farm workers needing employment between the cultivating and harvesting season for their own crops were chosen.

In commenting on the effectiveness of the neighborhood-leader organization, Agent Russell said that this example demonstrated how rapidly and effectively the "grapevine" or mouth-to-ear type of information spreads through a community. Through this organization it is possible to contact every farm in the county with a minimum of time and effort, he reported.



# Missouri holds short course for cotton gin operators

■ The short course for the operators of cotton gins conducted by the Missouri Extension Service and the U. S. Department of Agriculture at Portageville, Mo., August 1, 2 and 3 was the first of its kind, says Sam P. Lyle, Federal Extension Service.

The Missouri ginners asked J. R. (Dixie) Paulling of the Missouri Extension staff, that such a course be organized and offered to their operators for two reasons: (1) because they felt that there would be many green hands in the ginhouses this fall, and (2) because advancement in ginning machinery and practice has been so rapid that even experienced ginners need training in order to keep up with these improvements.

Morning sessions at the short course were occupied by lectures, afternoons by practice work in the ginhouses. The short course was attend-

ed by 199 gin workmen representing 186 active gins in Missouri. A few attended also from Arkansas, Tennessee, and Illinois. Instructors for the course included technicians from gin, equipment manufacturers, Federal extension specialists in ginning, and representatives of the National Cotton Council and the Missouri Smith-Doxey Cotton Classing Office.

U. S. Department of Agriculture extension ginning specialists assisting in this course were: Fred P. Johnson, Stoneville, Miss.; J. C. Oglesbee, Jr., Atlanta, Ga.; and A. M. Pendleton, Dallas, Tex. Sam P. Lyle attended the 3-day course as a consultant and observer.

Assisting with the discussions also were the co-directors of the U. S. Cotton Ginning Laboratory at Stoneville, Miss., Charles A. Bennett and F. L. Gerdes.

and eat supper before leaving at 7:30 for a meeting at the Brown Canyon schoolhouse with the community club. The meeting is supposed to start at 8, but it is raining and snowing. The roads are slick, so only a few are on time.

The early arrivals discuss, among themselves, the weather, the lateness of the season, the labor situation, OPA price ceilings on cattle, machinery rationing, and many other subjects. At 8:30 the chairman calls the meeting to order.

## Questions Are Asked

The county agent informally presents plans that have been worked out by farm leaders and committees on the 1944 agricultural labor program. Questions are asked, and there is some discussion; and then moving pictures are presented.

At 10:15 the group of 22 (rainy weather reduced the crowd) adjourn to enjoy coffee and doughnuts.

One hour later, when it seems time to go home, the group is still visiting. Coffee and doughnuts surely help develop a feeling of fellowship.

This is the fourth night meeting during the week. Arrived home between 11:30 and midnight.

Take it easier next week, but already three evening meetings are billed.—*Sunday World-Herald, Omaha, April 2, 1944.*

## Club women adopt farm families

Four members of the Antioch Home Demonstration Club in Craighead County, Ark., have each adopted a family to help, says Mary Britzman, county home demonstration agent. The women of these adopted farm families either live too far away to attend the club meetings or cannot leave home because they have small children.

Each of the four members makes it a point to visit her adopted family often. She sees that her family receives the Extension Service bulletins and gives assistance to the family on such problems as canning, poultry raising, and insect control.

## Early to late

C. W. NIBLER, Scotts Bluff County Agent, Nebr.

■ A day at a county agent's office shows many different activities. The first thing in the morning is to answer correspondence. A man at Morrill writes for information on onion production. The office girls send three bulletins on onions, and the inquirer is referred to two or three growers who have had experience.

A man at Minatare is sent a personal letter on the varieties of oats adapted to this area.

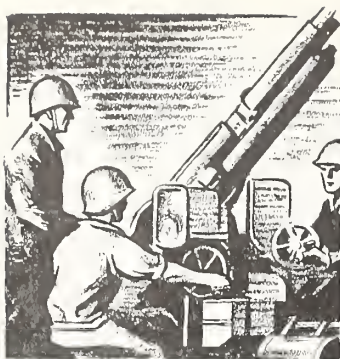
Copies of the articles of incorporation and bylaws for Scotts Bluff Labor, Inc., are sent to the county agent in Dawson County as the folks there are investigating the organization of an effective agricultural labor committee. We must organize all resources to do a good job on the labor front this year.

Minutes from yesterday's meeting are dictated, and a few reports are compiled. Now the mail has been gone over hurriedly.

While this is being done, Paul, assisting with labor work, helps a man fill out an agricultural deferment blank for his hired man. When this blank is filled out, a man with a blank from Wyoming comes in for assistance. Paul studies over this form a minute and then goes to work on it. Every State has a different type of agricultural deferment form.

From 10 a. m. to 4 p. m., many office calls are received. Inquiries pertain to filling out applications for trees for windbreaks. People ask about varieties of fruit trees adapted to this area. Someone else wants to know about seeding brome grass or where they can obtain information on leveling land. Office calls are the heaviest when weather is unfavorable for farm work.

As 5 p. m. approaches, the letters are signed; and then KGNU calls for news that might be used on its local broadcast. With a few more telephone calls to make, it is time to go home



## Extension agents join fighting forces

Nine extension workers have made the supreme sacrifice. More than 1,300 extensioners serve their country in the armed forces. These men and women are in many parts of the world and in various branches of the service. Sometimes their experiences are a far cry from those of pre-war days. News of their doings and excerpts from their letters are printed on this page.

### Extension's Gold Stars

J. L. Daniels, formerly assistant county agent in Madison County, Ala., died, as a result of wounds received at Guadalcanal, in December 1942. He was in the Marines.

Lt. A. D. Curlee, formerly county agent in Alabama, Army, killed in action April 6, 1943.

Ensign Tom Parkinson, formerly assistant county agent in Henry County, Ind., Navy, missing in action in the Southwest Pacific.

Capt. Frank C. Shipman, of Nebraska, Army, killed in action.

1st Lt. Leo M. Tupper, of Nebraska, Army, killed in action.

William Flake Bowles, formerly assistant agent in Watauga County, N. C., Army, reported missing in action on the Italian front.

Ensign Robert H. Bond, of the Federal Extension staff, Washington, D. C., Navy, reported missing in action in the Southwest Pacific.

Capt. J. B. Holton, formerly county agent in La Salle Parish, La., was killed in action in Europe during the invasion, June 9.

Capt. Frank Wayne, formerly county agent in Bernalillo County, N. Mex., killed in a vehicle accident in England.

### Likes the English

I've been in England now just long enough to know how to use English money and to know most of the customs. I've met nice people over here, and I consider myself fortunate in being sent here. I had to leave the States. I like the British people; and I'm sure that they would like our Central, Southern, and Western States. Their people are scattered and their homes broken much more than ours, and yet I have never heard one of them complain about it. They seem to accept this war as a job to be done and, like us, they are anxious to get it finished.

I had the good fortune to spend a few days training with some of the British Ack Ack men, and I learned to respect them.—*Walter Campbell, formerly Rush County agent, Kansas.*

### Rides charging tank

The exploits of Capt. William B. Stewart, county agent in Smith County, Tenn., who entered the Army in March 1942, were written up in a Memphis paper recently as follows:

"Capt. William B. Stewart of Whiteville, Tenn., rode a plunging tank to within 75 yards of German positions in Italy to make possible a sizable American advance on the Fifth Army front.

"The Captain's unit had launched a determined drive against the German lines over a 1,000-yard sector, but a stubborn enemy threatened to throw the entire plan into reverse.

"Realizing that quick action was necessary, Captain Stewart stepped out in full view of the waiting enemy and motioned for a supporting tank to follow him. He walked ahead of the 'iron monster,' pointing out the enemy positions. Then he climbed aboard, still under fire, to direct the tank's cannon at Nazi strong points 75 yards away.

"When the men of the Tennessee officers' unit pushed up, they counted 75 German dead and many more wounded. They took 120 prisoners."

## THE ROLL CALL

(Continued from last month)

### MISSOURI

Lt. Mary Bodwell, Army Nurse Corps.  
Ens. C. M. Christy, U. S. N. R.  
Lt. (j.g.) Lawrence W. Doran, Navy.  
Pvt. Albert F. Graham, Army.  
Lt. (j.g.) Vernon C. Jelley, Navy.  
A/S Robert B. Kaye, Army Air Force.  
Ens. Charles Kyd, U. S. N. R.  
Ens. Roy Lentz, U. S. N. R.  
Pvt. William L. McKnight, Army.  
Louise J. Morrissey, WAC.  
Lt. (j.g.) Glen Mutti, Navy.  
A/S William E. Pugh, Navy.  
Lt. (j.g.) Raymond Smith, U.S.N.R.

### SOUTH CAROLINA

Lt. (j.g.) Crayton McCown, U.S.N.R.  
Ens. W. J. Ridout, Jr., Navy.  
Capt. Ernest C. Turner, Army.  
Lt. H. A. Woodle, Army.

### WEST VIRGINIA

Lt. (j.g.) Neil Bolton, Navy.  
Pvt. Robert L. Bond, Army.  
Ens. Phyllis Curry, U. S. N. R.  
Pvt. Kenneth J. Estey, Army.  
F2/c L. M. Reid, Navy.  
Pvt. Robert Strosnider, Army.  
A/S Orris Alton Stutler, Navy.  
Pvt. Franz I. Taylor, Marines.  
Pvt. Christopher W. Thorniley, Army.  
Pfc. Jack M. Tyree.  
Lt. (j.g.) Victor E. Bird, U. S. N. R.  
Lt. (j.g.) H. E. Helmick, Navy.



# A playground is born

VIRGINIA BERRY CLARK, Home Economics Extension Specialist,  
Indiana Extension Service

■ "For city children only" seems to have been the "custom" where playgrounds have been concerned. But "custom" was overruled in one rural community near Lakeville, Ind., last summer when the Harmony Acres Home Economics Club decided that children there were entitled to a regular playground.

The community is actually a suburb of South Bend, Ind. But it is 9 miles from the city and city playgrounds, and some of the children had never seen a "real" playground. There was plenty of prospective "business" for a playground—there were more than 100 children in the 66 families living within an area of 1½ square miles.

Money and materials were short; but ingenuity, community spirit, and the will to work made up the difference. The 15 club members first enlisted the aid of their husbands at a husband's night cooperative supper; the problems of building the playground were talked over, and one of the men was appointed superintendent of construction of the Park Board.

A possible site for the playground was discovered in an old dead-end roadway—providing it could be closed. Through the help of Mrs. Esther T. Singer, county home demonstration agent, proper officials were reached, legal procedure was completed, and the County Planning Commission gave permission for the ground to be used. Then the road was closed, and an area of 60 feet by 250 feet was surveyed and graded by the County Highway Department.

In the meantime, the club members, their husbands—all who were not in the armed forces—and even the children went to work to equip the playground. All over the community—in garages, basements, and kitchens—sawing, hammering, painting, and all the other work of building kept everyone busy. The materials desired were not always obtainable, and substitutes had to be devised. Expense of materials was also a limiting factor, but other per-

sons and organizations in the community were learning of the enterprise and began making donations. When the first equipment was ready to go into place, even the 8- and 9-year-olds worked and sweat as they dug post holes and wielded paint brushes along with their elders.

The playground was opened July 19. So far, the equipment consists of a sand box, complete with roof and seats; six big swings and four smaller ones; two trapeze rings; two bar trapezes; a monkey climb; and six red, white, and blue teeter boards—the "special" delight of the children. Another special pride of these young Americans is their playground flagpole with the Stars and Stripes floating from it.

Members of the Harmony Acres Home Economics Club take turns supervising the new playground. To prepare for the job, every woman in the club took a Red Cross home nursing course.

## Children Enjoy Playground

The "supervisors" report that the playground is a busy place, with every piece of equipment in use most of the time. They predict, too, that the playground will keep right on growing and improving. Mrs. Claude Kaysen, president of the home economics group, reports that trees have been donated and are to be planted this fall. And later, if finances will permit, there's to be a "real" slide for the children. Mrs. Kaysen remarks that "just to look at the wonder and excitement in the children's eyes as they reviewed the new playground makes all the work worth while."

The Harmony Acres Home Economics Club is a new club, organized in October 1943. But it is living up to the creed of all Indiana home economics clubs:

"We believe in the present and its opportunities, in the future and its promises, in everything that makes life large and lovely, in the divine joy of living and helping others. And so we endeavor to pass on to others

that which has benefited us, striving to go onward and upward, reaching the pinnacle of economic perfection in improving, enlarging, and endearing the greatest institution in the world, the home."

This new and thriving club has added one more sentence to the usual creed:

"Our aim as thinking American citizens is to improve and create desirable environment and play centers in which to rear our children and guide them to become the finest type of men and women anywhere in this land."

## Camps become war institutes

The 4-H Club camps in South Carolina were streamlined into war institutes this year, reversing the usual plan of recreation first and training second.

South Carolina's director of extension, D. W. Watkins, believed that these events should be made to contribute directly and materially to the war food production effort or be discontinued for the duration.

Therefore, a program of instruction and of practical demonstrations was planned by the 4-H camp staff at Camp Long, the State 4-H camp near Aiken.

The extension agricultural engineer, C. V. Phagan, organized, with the assistance of the implement people, a course in maintenance, care, and the driving of tractors. During June and July 253 boys and girls received intensive 5-day courses and were certified to their respective county agents as tractor operators.

All the girls were taught food conservation and gardening, and all campers received training in courtesy, health, and swimming. Up to the last of July, 192 had been taught to swim.

A total of 1,603 campers attended the weekly events through July, and full contingents were scheduled on through August.

"We believe that these rural youngsters learned things at camp this year that will enable them to make better contributions to the food-production and food-conservation programs on their home farms when they go back," Romain Smith, camp director, said.

# What does Extension mean to a Brazilian?

DR. EDUARDO PINHEIRO of Monte Alegre, Para, Brazil

■ The Extension Service has a special meaning in American rural life. It was created as an institution to reach people in their homes to teach them how to improve their living conditions. A study of its accomplishments is of interest to Brazil.

As a student of rural problems, I found my observations of extension methods in this country very valuable. My study of extension methods includes 3 months spent with the county extension agents of Lee County, Ark. During that time, I traveled with them all over the county. I visited schools and farms and attended home demonstration and 4-Club meetings. I also attended several extension conferences.

## Learns About Club Work

Through my visits to the schools, I contacted 4-H Club boys and girls and learned much about their work as well as about the educational system. I found that it provided training for civic and social life in addition to teaching these junior and senior boys and girls to love the country, to enjoy rural life, to work and love their work, to produce and to save for themselves.

This training of the younger generations has resulted in the splendid accomplishments which today surprise anyone coming to the United States. A wonderful and impressive spectacle—the National 4-H Club Congress which I saw in Chicago—remains in my mind. There I saw 800 boys and girls from all over the United States telling about their deeds, studying their problems, and outlining new programs for the coming year in an extraordinary revelation of the potential reserve of this country.

By attending home demonstration club meetings, I became acquainted with the rural American woman—with all her kindness, her many and diverse activities, and all the extraordinary work she is doing. I understood that American women are the foundation of the rural home. I saw

them studying and discussing all their problems about food production, nutrition, and home management. I discovered that they have done wonderful work in improving their homes. That was one of my surprises when I got to the first rural home in Lee County. That was the Neal Bickerstaff home where I was going to stay for my period of field training.

I had heard that I was going to a small farm, and I expected to find a small home that was very simply furnished. But when I got there and started looking around, I found they had all the modern conveniences of the city homes. In my surprise, I started asking questions about how they were able to have such a comfortable home. In replying, Mrs. Bickerstaff told me: "This is the result of my home demonstration club work and the help of the county home demonstration agent. I have learned how to make our home more attractive through lessons and demonstrations given at our club meetings by our home demonstration agent. Also as a result of my club work, I started a Victory Garden, increased the poul-

try flock, and learned various methods of food preservation, as well as how to make better home use of dairy products."

It was the same story with Mr. Bickerstaff. When I asked him how he knew all the things he was doing, as he was not a graduate of a college of agriculture, he told me: "I have been working with county extension agents since I was a young man and from them I have learned about improved farming methods. You have come here to learn how to improve conditions in your country? I can tell you one way. When my family came to this place, it was not yet cleared. Everything had to be done as in your Amazon Valley. Improvements you see here now were developed in cooperation with the extension agent.

"But that is not all," he added. "I want you to know about my boy's work. He is only 10, but he is already a 4-H Club member. Last year he fed out a calf as a 4-H demonstration that won the first prize at the county fair. This year he will feed another calf, but he will grow the feed for it as well. He already has a corn patch, and he is the one who will teach you how to hoe corn and how to cultivate it."

And that was true. Some weeks later I was in the field hoeing with the boy, Jimmie Neal. He told me how much he enjoyed his work and said

Dr. Eduardo Pinheiro of Brazil (right) and Dr. F. P. Frutchey, of the Federal Extension Service.





he was trying to win the first prize again this year.

After observing this work, I think that Extension Service methods and organizations similar to your 4-H Clubs can be adapted for use in Brazil. In a country like ours where 60 per cent of the people are illiterate, we cannot think of teaching rural people through printed material, because in general they cannot read; or through picture shows and radios, because we have very few in our rural sections.

Demonstration work is the only method of teaching that can reach the people. It will be the best way to teach our rural people the things they should know about helping themselves and improving their living standards. And, as in the United

States, 4-H Clubs can build the minds of the youth for a better rural life; and extension service teachings for the adults can maintain that experience.

■ DR. EDUARDO PINHEIRO, who returned to Brazil in August, has been appointed director of health education for the Amazon Valley by the Ministry of Education. In this capacity he will organize the educational work in connection with sanitation, nutrition, and agriculture of the many posts established throughout the valley by the Service of Education and Public Health. Dr. Pinheiro was the first of the Latin-American students to complete a full year's training in extension methods and farm practices.

## Good neighbor students learn extension methods

■ Knowledge of extension procedures and practices is being carried back to Latin America almost weekly by trainees completing studies in this country made possible by "Good Neighbor" scholarships.

The scholarships, financed by the Institute of Inter-American Affairs and the Department of State, have already brought 44 Latin-American students to the United States, and some 30 or 40 others are expected to arrive for training before July 1945. Since the training program began in September 1943, 13 "graduates" have completed the course and returned to their own countries.

Typical of the aims expressed by departing students was the plan to organize 4-H Clubs and expand dairy production outlined by three trainees returning to the State of Ceara, Brazil. The three, Eduardo Frota, Pedro Ferreira, and Francisco Nogueira, returned home in September. Their plan called for joint action in promoting the organization of 4-H Clubs and the expansion of dairy production in their home State. In support of the latter objective, they expected to encourage irrigation as a means of insuring year-round pastures; baling and storing native grasses for hay; construction of feed-storage facilities, especially silos;

establishment of milk-processing plants; and herd improvement through artificial insemination.

Technical information in all these fields was acquired by at least one of the three while in this country, through the cooperation of the State Extension Services of Wisconsin, Texas, and Colorado. Frota and Nogueira made a special study of irrigation under the supervision of the Colorado Extension Service; and both Nogueira and Ferreira studied artificial insemination, cheese production, and milk pasteurization during a program of study arranged by the Wisconsin Extension Service. Practical knowledge of dairy farming was acquired by Ferreira through the cooperation of the Texas Extension Service, and Frota made a special study of Colorado's 4-H Club organizations and activities.

The training program, one of several being carried on by the United States Government for Latin-Americans is being administered by the Extension Service and the Institute of Inter-American Affairs. An outgrowth of the Good Neighbor policy, ultimate objectives of the program are the improvement of farming efficiency, living standards, and health of the rural people in the participating countries through the establish-

ment of agricultural extension services or the expansion of those already in existence.

Immediate goals are increased production of food and complementary crops in Latin America, the replacement by qualified nationals of North American technicians and specialists who are now employed in Latin-American countries under cooperative arrangements between the United States and the various governments concerned, and the addition of courses in extension methods to the curriculums of State colleges of agriculture.

American republics from which trainees are being selected are Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, and Venezuela.

During the 12-month training period, each student studies extension philosophy, organization, and teaching methods in the Federal, State, and county extension offices. Actual experience in farming is gained through employment on farms ranging from several weeks to 9 months.

Principal agricultural interest of the student determines the selection of the State or county where training is received. "Major" subjects of the trainees have included cotton and citrus culture; rice production; care, repair, and operation of farm machinery; livestock production including beef and dairy cattle, swine, and poultry; agricultural statistics; farm management; irrigation, and soil conservation.

State cooperative extension services assisting with the training program include Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

■ MRS. JOSELINA Y. IRIZARRY, district home demonstration agent for Puerto Rico, has been awarded a scholarship from the University of Puerto Rico for a year's study at the Florida State College for Women, Tallahassee, Fla. Mrs. Irizarry arrived in the United States September 11.



# Flashes

## FROM SCIENCE FRONTIERS

A few hints of what's in the offing as a result of scientific research in the U. S. Department of Agriculture that may be of interest to extension workers, as seen by Marion J. Drown, Agricultural Research Administration, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

■ **Achievement.** It is difficult to put an accurate dollar-and-cents value on the results of research. But some of the scientific projects of the Department during the years have resulted in such outstanding advances in knowledge and practical aids to farming that their value, mostly in money saved through reduced losses in crops and animals, must be estimated at hundreds of millions of dollars annually. To make available the stories of these and other Department projects that have made research history, the ARA is putting out a series of processed leaflets called Research Achievement Sheets. Each of these gives a brief description of the problem to be attacked, the nature of the research required, by whom and when it was done, the results, and the benefits from its adoption. On the back of the sheet are additional data on the project, including estimates of the cost and, where possible, the returns. The titles of the first 10 Achievement Sheets issued so far are as follows: Cattle fever research advances medical knowledge; Chemical treatment for gapeworms in chickens; Hog cholera conquered by serum-virus treatment; Phenothiazine, versatile drug for controlling livestock parasites; Maximum hatches from hen's eggs; Protecting man against trichinosis; Producing more beef from phosphorus-deficient ranges; Strain 19 vaccine curbs losses from brucellosis; Simple test effective in pullorum disease control; and Preservative prevents feather loss.

■ **Transplanting trees safely.** At Woodward, Okla., dry-land crop specialists of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering station have been studying and experimenting to find ways of transplanting trees that will insure a high rate of survival. In the semi-arid region served by this station, trees are valuable for farm wind-

breaks. Wrapping with burlap the balls of earth left around the roots when pine or other coniferous seedlings are lifted from the nursery has increased survival of the transplants. Metal cylinders have been devised to aid in taking up coniferous trees. These cylinders are of various sizes, adjusted to the sizes of the trees, and are made of galvanized iron or light steel. A clamp at the bottom can be released for easy removal of the cylinder, and the earth around the roots can then be tied with burlap. For direct local transplanting, the trees can be carried to the new site in the cylinders. Other dry-land crop experimenters, at Mandan, N. Dak., have increased the rate of survival of transplants by cutting under conifers in the nursery about 4 inches below the surface of the soil a year before they are to be transplanted. Dipping the tops of seedlings in a wax emulsion before transplanting was found to help survival, whereas the practice of removing the needles proved harmful.

■ **"No. 5"—A New Cantaloup.** Another successful venture of the plant breeders is a cantaloup resistant to powdery mildew. Developed by crossing market melons with an inedible ancestor from India that is highly resistant to this disease, the resulting cantaloup is both disease-resistant and delicious. Known as "No. 5," it has practically taken over the cantaloup land in the Imperial Valley of California since its first trials there in 1943. The Department and the California Agricultural Experiment Station cooperated in its development.

■ **The latest in pickles.** Pickling and brining are good ways, along with canning, freezing, and drying, of keeping vegetables and some fruits for winter use. The Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry, in co-operation with the North Carolina

Agricultural Experiment Station, has made a study of the best and easiest ways to salt or brine vegetables. Four tested methods are described in *Farmers' Bulletin* 1932, just revised; and a simple way to make sauerkraut in glass jars is shown in a picture sequence. Recipes for several types of pickles, including pickled fruit, overnight pickles, brined green tomatoes, cucumber dills, and many kinds of spicy relishes, are given in a new folder, AWT-103, *Pickle and Relish Recipes*, prepared by the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics.

■ **Pink Peril.** Beware gift wrappings from overseas! Not long ago, cotton packed in and around a captured German helmet, sent as a gift from a service man to a friend in this country, was found by foreign plant quarantine inspectors to contain pink bollworms living in the seeds. The pink bollworm is the most destructive of all cotton pests. Fortunately, owing to a continued fight against it, it has not so far become established in our cotton-producing States, except in one or two limited areas. Bollworms can live as long as 2 years in cottonseed. And cotton is not the only packing material that is suspect. Straw and grass may carry other dangerous insects or plant diseases. So if you receive any souvenirs from service men, don't take chances. Burn the wrappings and packing material so that no fifth-columnist or Trojan-horse enemies shall be let loose in this country to menace cotton and other crops.

■ **Molds to the Fore.** Penicillin started what may be a procession of important products of molds and other micro-organisms. Scientists at the Northern Regional Research Laboratory at Peoria, Ill., have one of the world's largest collections of such micro-organisms to aid them in developing industrial products from agricultural commodities. They have recently found a way, with the help of a mold—*Aspergillus terreus*—and a corn-sugar solution, to produce itaconic acid cheaply. In case you don't know, itaconic acid is useful in the production of plastics, but it has been rather expensive. The new mold method of production has cut the cost of this acid from \$10 to approximately 50 cents a pound.



# *We Study Our Job*

## Spot checking in Windham County, Conn.

A cooperative spot-checking study of extension work in Windham County, Conn., has just been completed. The three purposes of the study were to determine the extent of participation, the extent of certain practices followed, and needs for the post-war period. Two hundred and six families were interviewed in 16 spots distributed geographically over the county.

Nearly three-fourths of the families had taken part in extension activities at some time. Participation was higher for commercial and part-time farm families than for farmers having no commercial farm enterprises. A fairly large percentage of the non-participating farmers and homemakers were uninformed about extension work. This was particularly true among the sustenance group of farmers and homemakers where extension participation was the lowest. More farmers than homemakers or boys and girls had participated.

The study indicates that such agricultural practices as fertilizing or seeding pasture, feeding grain to dry cows, vaccinating hens against chicken pox, and spraying apple trees had been quite generally adopted. Nearly all the homemakers had adopted recommended practices for gardening and canning of vegetables. Many of the families had improved their gardens since the war by using specific garden practices. Food was raised at home to feed the family over a large portion of the year. These agricultural and home economics practices had been part of the extension program for a long time.

Windham County farm families hope to make many improvements on their farms, in their homes, and in their communities after the war. These improvements include new farm buildings, additions to the farmhouse, remodeling and repair of home and farm buildings, new equipment for farm and home, new conveniences such as plumbing, electricity and electrical devices, centralized schools, fire

departments, elimination of blind-road corners, building community houses, freezer locker plants, home economics clubs, and 4-H clubs. Sustenance farm families as well as commercial and part-time farm families were concerned about post-war improvements. Interests along these lines may well be used in formulating an extension program after the war. —WINDHAM COUNTY, CONN. EXTENSION STUDY, August 1944, by R. E. Wing, Windham County agricultural agent, and Fred P. Frutchey, Federal Extension Service. (Type-written)

## Are we writing for our readers?

To find out if we are writing for our farm readers in language that they can read and understand, the Division of Field Studies and Training is analyzing Extension publications written for farm families. These readers might range in formal schooling from the ninth to the fourth grade or even lower, according to the 1940 Census.

The Lorge and Flesch Formulas—products of the Readability Laboratory of Teachers College, Columbia University, are being used as readability yardsticks to find out whether or not we are writing over our readers' heads. The formulas enable us to compare our written material with standard writing of known difficulty. For example, if a formula rates a piece of writing "Easy" we know it is comparable to True Story Magazine which is sixth-grade reading level. "Fairly easy" is on a par with Liberty Magazine—seventh-grade level. "Average difficulty" is Reader's Digest or eighth—to ninth-grade level.

Several practical values have resulted from using these readability yardsticks. They are a repeated check on whether or not we are gearing our material to the reading capacity of our readers. The formulas serve as reminders to be concrete, to use short sentences and simple words, and to humanize our writing

by using words referring to people. Furthermore, these yardsticks are helping to make extension workers "readability conscious."

## I pledge my health to greater living

Illinois 4-H Club boys have become stronger as a result of their 4-H Club health activities, according to a study made over a 3-year period. Since 1941 emphasis has been placed on keeping fit. Club members have been urged to condition themselves through exercises, stunts, games, hikes, running, swimming, and farm work.

To evaluate the health "H" of 4-H Club work, strength tests were given to 317 boys in 1941 and to 355 in 1943 at 7 different 4-H Club camps throughout the State. Three tests were set up: (1) chins—a test of arm strength; (2) push-ups, a test of arm and back strength; and (3) vertical jumps—a test of power. These are described in a mimeographed circular "How Strong Are You?" and later in "Keeping Fit."

The scores varied according to age and body type. Body-type ranged from the thick-fat-soft to the thin-shallow type. The best scores on all three strength tests were made by boys of the middle types. Body types differed between the 2 years, and when this difference was accounted for, the scores on chins were significantly higher in 1943 than in 1941. Similar ratios for jumps and push-ups were obtained. In other words, the boys improved on the three strength tests between 1941 and 1943, even after body-type differences were taken into account.

In 1943 tests of agility, balance, endurance, flexibility, power, and strength were given in addition to the tests mentioned above. These tests demonstrate the possibility of evaluating certain educational objectives which have been formerly held to be intangible. —EVALUATING THE HEALTH OBJECTIVE OF 4-H CLUB WORK, by D. M. Hall, Illinois Extension Service, Illinois Extension Publication, 1944.

# Arkansas leaders find harvest workers

■ In spite of a severe labor shortage, bumper yields of two important crops in Arkansas were harvested this year by means of an integrated recruiting program that depended for its success on the co-operation of volunteer neighborhood leaders.

The recruiting of 1,137 pickers for the 1,700 acres of tame blackberries in Polk County and of some 4,000 harvesters for the 750,000- to 800,000-bushel crop of Elberta peaches in the Nashville-Highland peach area was an achievement that these volunteers as contact personnel between the laborers and the Extension Service made possible.

By personal interview, neighborhood leaders acquainted individuals in their neighborhoods with conditions of employment where they were needed for the two crops and, in turn, provided the county agents with lists of the names of prospective workers.

## Volunteer Leaders Help

When groups were located by volunteer leaders, a collect call was placed for Kenneth Bates, Polk County agent, for the blackberry harvest, and to Paul Eddlemon, Howard County agent, for the peach recruiting, to inform them of the name of the crew leader, the type of individuals making up the groups and other pertinent details.

Polk County and the Nashville-Highland area are in the southwestern district of the State, and the business of starting the recruiting programs for both crops fell largely to J. O. Fullerton, district agent for that section of Arkansas. Through the assistance of State Farm Labor Supervisor Walter Cooper and Assistant State Farm Labor Supervisor J. J. Pickren, the program in each area was initiated after growers predicted bumper crops.

One-minute emergency spot radio announcements went on the air over Arkansas radio stations servicing the counties surrounding the two areas. Addressed to men, women, and children, these announcements urged anyone with spare time to volunteer to

save the valuable crops. All interested persons who could work full time or part time were asked to call their county agent for details of transportation and housing.

Peak period in the berry harvest was the first week in July. Pickers were brought in from Scott, Crawford, Yell, Logan, Montgomery, and Sevier Counties in Arkansas, and from four counties in Oklahoma. In addition to all regular pickers, supplemental help had to be called on; and it was during this week that Mena, Ark., businessmen closed their county seat stores and took employees to the berry patches.

C. C. Fowler of Wickes and R. O. Williamson of Grannis, towns in the heart of the berry country, served as field assistants to Agent Bates and Farm Labor Assistant Walter Myers; and after consulting berry growers each night, reported to the county extension office in Mena the number of additional pickers—other than the resident groups encamped in the berry-producing sector—needed for the following day. Bates and Myers then went into action and, with their office force, often worked until past midnight getting pickers lined up for the following day. No berries were left in the fields to spoil other than those that failed to mature when the drought curtailed the harvest.

## Jams and Jellies

At least 1,610,000 pounds of berries were picked to bring a return of \$192,120 to the growers, and every berry commercially handled in the county went to processors who have government contracts to convert all of them to jams and jellies for the armed forces.

By July 20, when the Nashville peach crop began ripening after a 2-week delay caused by the hot, dry weather, 4,546 harvesters—1,270 men and 3,276 women and youths—had been recruited from Garland, Ouachita, Pike, Sevier, Hempstead, Clark, Nevada, and Howard Counties. As the harvesting progressed, some additional workers were signed up to move into certain orchards where the

ripening called for rush picking. An incentive to housewives was the reasonable price at which the fruit was offered for canning for home use.

In explaining the need for peach harvesters, the recruiting leaders emphasized the importance of the peach crop as a war crop and also the fact that 70 per cent of the commercial crop will go to the armed forces.

The activity of the labor program in Nevada County was handled in a highly systematized manner. In their files in the county extension office at Prescott, Ark., County Agent E. W. Loudermilk and Home Demonstration Agent Florence Pitts compiled the information supplied them by the neighborhood leaders into a complete tabulation of the number of men, women, boys, and girls who signed up from each community, the leaders under whom they were organized into crews, and the truck or bus driver transporting them to and from the area.

As crews, made up on an average of from 15 to 20 persons, were organized under a crew leader, these data were entered on the records. Arrangements for drivers to convey the crews from each community were completed as the recruiting progressed, so that the transporting of the volunteers to the strategic area would not occur as a last-minute problem. When the call from Paul Eddlemon came through, the two agents had only to refer to a chart which they had compiled from the information furnished by the neighborhood leaders for a complete picture of the recruitment in compact, tabulated form. The total of Nevada County's recruits, after receiving the call, quickly formed into crews that moved smoothly and efficiently into the peach orchards of Howard County to help save the valuable crop.

## To win the war

Every woman who belongs to the Woodland Park home demonstration club near Colorado Springs, Colo., is donating a pint of her blood or \$1 to the American Red Cross blood bank.

Every 2 weeks two of the rural women who are members of this patriotic club donate 8 dozen cookies to the U. S. O. Center at Colorado Springs.



# Making the tomato a 4-H vegetable

**ANITA DICKSON, Home Demonstration Agent, and TED L. JOULE, County Agricultural Agent, St. Francois County, Mo.**

■ Sponsored by adult groups in their own communities and instructed by the county extension agents and local leaders, 907 boys and girls in St. Francois County, Mo., are increasing wartime food production in a 4-H tomato project. By the end of August they had harvested enough tomatoes to supply 1,200 persons with a year's nutritional requirements of tomatoes and tomato juice.

Both leaders and members of these 4-H groups have maintained their enthusiasm for the tomato project despite a great deal of unfavorable weather in the early part of the growing season. They are happy in accomplishing their purpose of producing essential food, and mastering successful methods of tomato production.

## Tomatoes Excel

All 4-H vegetable production members were encouraged to raise tomatoes as their project. By limiting to one project it was easier to obtain sponsorship and leaders for the clubs. The tomato was the one vegetable best suited to all St. Francois County conditions. Being high in food value, having a long growing season, recommended for all size gardens, and requiring the minimum in insect control, tomatoes excelled all other vegetables in adaptability for a single 4-H project.

Clubs were organized during early spring. Schools cooperated by arranging meetings of all boys and girls of club age. At each of these meetings one of us explained the 4-H program. Home economics extension clubs, federated garden clubs, and civic groups were glad to act as sponsors and supply leadership. Each 4-H Club had a sponsoring organization which obtained necessary leaders. With the single vegetable project, one leader handled up to 35 members.

Members were required to use a recommended variety of plants but had the privilege of growing their own or obtaining them from other sources. Three hundred and seventy-seven members elected to pool their

orders and obtain plants from a local commercial plant grower. This plant grower cooperated by providing his best plants for the 4-H members and delivering them at the schools. Orders for 4-12-4 fertilizer were also pooled, 1,500 pounds being distributed in 2½- and 5-pound bags at cost.

Before plants were delivered, a demonstration was given at each club, showing how to set out the plants and use the fertilizer. At tours held in June, demonstrations were given on pruning, staking, mulching, and use of insecticides. On these tours, practically every member was visited and tomatoes scored, using a score card so devised as to recognize good cultural practices. Each member was given the opportunity to take part in judging work and to exhibit products at the county 4-H roundup. Sponsoring groups arranged tomato shows to be held at the schools during September.

The fact that 907 boys and girls out of the county's total 4-H Club enrollment of 1,150 members selected tomatoes as their project indicates that the one-vegetable project builds toward greater and more active participation and increased enrollment.

## Play helps cherry pickers

This is the first year that extension workers assumed the definite responsibility of providing recreation for the cherry picker camps that housed boys and girls in Door County, Wis., recruited through the extension program.

Bruce Cartter, rural sociologist of the University of Wisconsin, spent 2 weeks in the county at the beginning of the cherry season to help organize the recreational program and interest the growers in play equipment. After that I carried on alone. For 3 solid weeks I "made" the cherry camps every evening except Saturday and Sunday. The pickers enjoyed group games and relays. I always had my car full of grapefruit and other equipment for relays. In addition, there were also camp pro-

grams. Ranger Mac, Wisconsin State 4-H Club leader, was in the county 1 week for evening camp programs, making many new friends among the youngsters and older ones, too. The State Board of Health gave us some help with camp programs.

Of the 66 camps, about 50 housed boys and girls. Most of these camps were grouped so that more could be serviced by the extension program; that is, the smaller camps brought their pickers to one central place. The 2 large camps, however, that housed about 600 pickers each had their program without calling in other camps.

In general, most of the evening programs consisted of singing, games, movies, camp talent, and Ranger Mac.—Dorothea Steckling, home demonstration agent, Door County, Wis.

## Beef and lamb for 1,000 soldiers

At the ninth annual Spokane Jr. Livestock Show early in May, 375 junior soldiers of the home front—4-H Club members and Future Farmers of America from Washington, northern Idaho, and western Montana—sold enough beef and lamb to feed nearly 1,000 soldiers for a year and enough pork for 285 fighting men.

This year, to increase the food supply, more emphasis than ever was placed on raising pens of 5 steers, or 4 or 10 hogs or lambs, rather than an individual prize animal. Washington 4-H Club members alone showed 23 of the 29 pens of 5 steers. Their entries made up far more pens of 5 than had ever before been entered in the entire Spokane show.

In the 4-H single steer class alone, the club members entered 73 animals, which figured out to be enough meat to feed 420 soldiers for a year. Also in this class 17 steers were placed in high choice—the top grade—more steers of a single class than had ever before made top grade at the Spokane show. The 4-H single steer Hereford class was even larger, with 87 animals entered.

4-H stockmen also showed at the Inland Empire Show September 29 and 30 in Spokane and plan to show at a streamlined Pacific International in Portland, October 11 to 13.

# The once-over

Reflecting the news of the month as we go to press

AT THE WHITE HOUSE, representing 4-H Club members at the conference on rural education, October 3 to 5, was Lois Crouse, 18 years old, of Queen Anne, Md. She served on a committee to study "Special Problems in Providing Instructional Opportunities in Rural Schools" and did a good job. Two home demonstration agents, Maude A. Bean of Alleghany County, Md., and Frances E. Brundige of Holmes County, Ohio, as well as other members of the State and Federal Extension staffs, took part in this first conference on rural education ever held in the White House.

RECENT BRITISH VISITORS in Washington now visiting rural areas rather widely separated are Janet Strang of the Institute of Agriculture of Northampton who has worked very closely with the British Women's Land Army; W. T. Price, executive officer of the Wiltshire War Agricultural Executive Committee and for the past 20 years county "organizer," a position similar to that of our county agent; and Elwyn Jones, a Welsh farmer and chairman of the local branch of the National Farmers Union. They attended the quarterly staff conference with its customary visit to the Beltsville Research Center.

WHEN TOMORROW COMES was the theme of the conference of the youth section of the American Country Life Association held in cooperation with New York Collegiate Country Life Clubs and other groups at State Teachers College, Fredonia, N. Y., October 25 to 28. A number of extension people working with rural youth took part in this workshop conference.

THE GREATEST CONTRIBUTION to the leadership in agricultural, livestock, and educational interests of the county was attributed to the two extension agents of Scotts Bluff County, Nebr., at the county fair when Crawford W. Nibler and Mary L. Strohecker received the recognition before a fair crowd of 15,000 persons. Working in the county for the past 8½

years, Agent Nibler has distinguished himself in many lines of work—particularly in dairying, potato improvement, and soil management. Miss Strohecker is given much credit for the success of the 4-H program in the county where she has served for the past 6½ years.

GEORGIA CITATION for the home demonstration agent in each Extension Service district who performs the most outstanding service for farm people is planned by the Georgia Home Demonstration Agents' Association.

TO SELL THE IDEA of disinfecting garden seed and inoculating legumes, the County Home Demonstration Council of Waller County, Tex., provided the chemicals free to more than 300 families. The women themselves showed the Victory gardeners how to do it in every community of the county, reports Jewel Ballew, home demonstration agent.

THE MEXICAN LIKES very black coffee for breakfast, advises Lucy A. Case, Oregon extension nutritionist, in her suggestions for Oregon homemakers who are feeding the Mexican na-

tionals helping on the farms. She advises employing a Mexican in the kitchen to taste food and see that it is properly seasoned as the Mexican likes it. She gives many other useful suggestions to keep the Mexican worker happy.

ANOTHER USEFUL FOOD PUBLICATION compiled by Miss Case gives information on mailing food to husbands, sons, and brothers in the armed forces. The circular gives complete information including post office rules, recipes, and needs of prisoners. It has been popular and has had wide distribution.

THE HOUSEWIVES SPECIAL in Marion County, Oreg., carried town women to the fields to help harvest the crop from 8:30 to 3 p. m., which gave the women a chance to care for their families in the morning before leaving and return in time to get the family supper. Members of the Housewives Special . . . more than 500 women . . . helped to save the bean crop of the county.

MEAT CANNING, including game, is in full swing. With game more plentiful this fall than in many years, and some ammunition again allowed to hunters generally, home demonstration agents and war food conservationists are receiving many requests for help in canning game; and several States have issued publications on the subject.

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Prepared in the  
Division of Extension Information  
Lester A. Schlup, *Chief*

CLARA L. BAILEY, *Editor*  
DOROTHY L. BIGELOW, *Editorial Assistant*  
GERTRUDE L. POWER, *Art Editor*

EXTENSION SERVICE  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.  
M. L. WILSON, *Director*  
REUBEN BRIGHAM, *Assistant Director*

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THE 1945 DAIRY PROGRAM gathers momentum. This month a program kit is being sent to directors of extension and chairmen of the State organization with many suggestions for the development of an educational program.

THE NEW CENSUS SCHEDULES are being sent to county agents by the Census Bureau, and agents generally are helping the census enumerators with their special knowledge of local agricultural conditions and facilities—paving the way for an accurate and useful census. The Extension Service is a big user of census information and stands ready to help make the new census as useful as possible in the making as well as in the using.